

# The Story of Stormwater

## THE PROBLEM

Stormwater is rain that runs off hard surfaces and carries pollution to our streams.

Excess fertilizers & pesticides from lawns end up in our streams.

Heavy metals, oil & trash from parking lots & roads pollute our streams.

Roofs & paved surfaces don't allow water to soak into the ground.

Large volumes of stormwater erode stream banks, causing trees to fall & die.

Pet waste has harmful bacteria that affects stream wildlife.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Everything that goes down our storm drains ends up in local streams!

## THE SOLUTION

Montgomery County and its residents build and maintain stormwater management practices to protect streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Stormwater ponds & sand filters slow the flow of water & remove pollutants.

Rain gardens (also called bioretentions) absorb water & filter pollutants.

Green roofs & permeable pavement slow the flow of water.

Tree planting & stream restoration protect stream banks from erosion.

Pick up & dispose of pet waste in the trash.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Most of our drinking water comes from the Potomac & Patuxent Rivers!

*Maria Rabinsky*